

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CAIRO 05013 241056Z  
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 ABF-01 JUSE-00 TRSE-00  
SCS-03 SCA-01 A-01 FS-01 /029 W  
-----242313Z 073750 /72-62  
R 240959Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3100

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 5013

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EFIN PFOR EG US  
SUBJ: USG OFFICIAL CLAIMS AGAINST EGYPT

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM ALEXANDRIA 0218 SENT ACTION CAIRO DATED 23 MAR  
H/W REPEATED

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALEXANDRIA 0218

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: EFIN, PFOR, EG, US  
SUBJECT: USG OFFICIAL CLAIMS AGAINST EGYPT

REF: CAIRO 4563, STATE 41695

1. CONSUL GENERAL DISCUSSED SS BRIDGEHAMPTON CASE WITH MAITRE  
ADEL BESTAWROS (REFTELS) ON 23 MARCH.
2. BESTAWROS, WHO REPRESENTS BRIDGEHAMPTON'S PREVIOUS OWNERS IN  
BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS, SAYS HE HAS REVIEWED CASE IN DEPTH OVER  
LAST YEAR IN ALEXANDRIA AND WASHINGTON WITH THOMAS HUANG OF L/C  
AND FORMER COMMERCIAL OFFICER AT EMBASSY CAIRO ROGER MERRICK. HE  
INSISTS IT SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE CONSIDERED AS "CLAIM AGAINST GOE".  
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3. HE BELIEVES THERE IS PERSISTENT MISUNDERSTANDING OF THIS  
MATTER AMONG VARIOUS USG INTERESTED PARTIES.
4. ACCORDING TO BESTAWROS, "DISTRIBUTION ORDER NO. 4" --STATE  
REFTEL PARA 4(J)-- OF PORT SAID COURT IS LEGALLY BINDING. USG  
SHOULD REQUEST COURT TO ISSUE CHECK FOR EGYPTIAN POUND EQUIVALENT

OF DOLLARS 45,685 FOUND OWING TO US, PAYABLE BY NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT. FYI --SINCE ORIGINAL COURT ORDER PRIOR TO 1967, NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT IS HEADQUARTERED IN CAIRO, NOT ALEXANDRIA-- END FYI.

5. USG MUST THEN PETITION GOE FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROL AUTHORITIES FOR PERMISSION RECEIVE PAYMENT IN US DOLLARS, NOTING THAT USG EXPENDITURES IN BEHALF OF SS BRIDGEHAMPTON IN 1964 WERE DOLLAR PAYMENTS. FYI --BESTAWROS SAYS THAT PURCHASER OF SS BRIDGEHAMPTON WAS AMERICAN WHO PAID TWO MILLION DOLLARS. OTHER CREDITORS SUCH AS TODD SHIPYARD AND CHEMICAL BANK RECOVERED THEIR MONEY IN DOLLARS. -- END FYI.

6. BESTAWROS EMPHASIZED THAT AS LAWYER FOR SS BRIDGEHAMPTON INTERESTS, HE COULD NOT ACT IN BEHALF OF USG, BUT DID OFFER MAKE AVAILABLE TO CONSUL GENERAL ALL POSSIBLE COOPERATION TO WIND UP THIS PHASE OF BRIDGEHAMPTON BANKRUPTCY. HE THINKS USG IS UNNECCESARILY COMPLICATING WHAT SHOULD BE RELATIVELY SIMPLE CARRYING OUT OF COURT ORDER IN THIS CASE.

7. CAIRO PLEASE REPEAT SECSTATE IF APPROPRIATE.  
CHASE  
UNQUOTE  
MATTHEWS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** USG OFFICIAL CLAIMS AGAINST EGYPT FOLLOWING TELEGRAM ALEXANDRIA 0218 SENT ACTION CAIRO DATED 23 MAR H/W REPEATED  
**TAGS:** EFIN, PFOR, EG, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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